



# INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

TO: Indiana State Board of Education  
FROM: Alicia Kielmovitch, Senior Director of Policy and Legislation  
RE: Best Practice – Locally Created Pathway – Commercial and Industrial Construction Pathway  
DATE: October 25, 2018

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**Locally Created Pathways (LCPs):** Per the Graduation Pathways policy adopted by the State Board of Education (SBOE) in December 2017, schools may apply for locally developed assessments for students to demonstrate college- and career-readiness. These LCPs augment the current list of Postsecondary-Ready Competencies already included in the established policy. LCPs must meet the following 3 criteria: 1) Collaboration; 2) Competency; and 3) Continuous Improvement.

**Determining a Best Practice:** During the review of applications for LCPs, the Review Team, consisting of staff members from State Board, the Department of Education, the Department of Workforce Development, and the Commission for Higher Education, determined that MSD of Decatur's application for the Commercial and Industrial Construction Pathway provided great detail and information on the currency students will obtain upon completion. This program exceeds the minimum expectations the policy established, as well as representation how local context can inform instructional decisions. Because this is an excellent model of the Grad Pathways policy, the Review Team suggested this be presented to the State Board of Education as a Best Practice, as well as featured on the Department of Education's [Pathway Practices site](#).

**Summary MSD of Decatur's Commercial and Industrial Construction Pathway:** MSD of Decatur's Commercial and Industrial Construction Pathway is an academic program exceeding the Graduation Pathway minimum requirements. Students earn CTE Concentrator status, multiple industry credentials, and dual credits through Vincennes University. The course of study culminates with students completing the first year of a 4-year apprenticeship in a construction trade, as well as a potentially an Associate of Science/Tech degree.

**Criterion 1: Collaboration:** To design this program, MSD of Decatur collaborated with higher education, industry, community, and K-12 partners. These partners include: Vincennes University, Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) trade group, the Indiana Construction Roundtable Foundation, and the Area 31 CTE Center.

**Criterion 2: Competencies:** In the first year of the program, students complete Construction Trades I through the ABC Construction Prep Academy. The class is taught at ABC and with ABC instructors, and it uses curriculum from the National Center for Construction and Education Research (NCCER). The course provides an overview of various trades offered by ABC, focusing primarily on commercial construction, rather than residential. Through their coursework, students also earn certifications useful for construction careers, including OSHA 10, Confined Spaces, Scissor Lift, Forklift, and First Aid/CPR.

In between the first and second years of the program, students participate in a summer internship with an ABC member. Students select a trade of interest and enroll as a Level I apprentice with ABC in the second year of the program. By completing Level I as a senior, students have a jumpstart on becoming a licensed Craft Professional and completing a 4-year apprenticeship. This apprenticeship is coordinated with Vincennes University, so that students earn a corresponding Associate Degree based on their chosen ABC trade concentration.



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**Criterion 3: Continuous Improvement:** The intended outcome for MSD of Decatur's students is to provide students a head start on their postsecondary careers in a high-wage, high-demand field. MSD of Decatur will continue its ongoing relationship with ABC to ensure students graduate with the requisite courses, skills, and certifications to complete the 4-year apprenticeship. Through annual meetings with ABC, the Indiana Roundtable Construction Foundation, the Area 31 Career Center, and Vincennes University, MSD of Decatur can ensure that the curriculum taught aligns with the industry demands. MSD of Decatur also has a Pathway Advisory Council to assess the effectiveness of current programs for the district, as well as Small Learning Communities to work with and monitor the progress of all students in their respective pathways.